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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,331	02/04/2002	Gunter Kunze	72.053	9486
23598	7590	05/25/2005	EXAMINER	
BOYLE FREDRICKSON NEWHOLM STEIN & GRATZ, S.C. 250 E. WISCONSIN AVENUE SUITE 1030 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202			SOOHOO, TONY GLEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1723	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/937,331

Applicant(s)

KUNZE ET AL.

Examiner

Tony G. Soohoo

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2001, preliminary amendment.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

In view of the preliminary amendment to claims 13-17 filed Sept. 21, 2001. The previous office action is hereby vacated and a new office action is presented to the pending claims 13-17.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature of the evaluation circuit must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

Art Unit: 1723

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification positively refers to particular claim numbers, see page 1, line 4; page 2, lines 10, 13, and 25.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for measurement device for measuring RPM and a circuit to determine the RPM and to conclude that a slow RPM may indicate empirically that the cement/concrete appears to be hardening or thickening, it does not reasonably provide enablement for the algorithm which uses the RPM change or motion to determine a “densification state” of the material in an quantitative sense. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make circuit and algorithm of the invention commensurate in scope with these claims to a particular “state”.

Claim interpretation

5. Claim 13, last section, recites “wherein... a signal is produced .. from the measured value”. Is noted that the following phrase “and thus (the signal itself) from a change in the operating parameter that corresponds to a change in the densified state of material” is interpreted as being descriptive to how a user may interpret the signal, and does not constitute any structural limitation to the circuit structure itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1097651, (GB '651) cited on PTO 1449.

The GB '651 reference discloses a vibration unit 8, switch 10, a measuring device 3 for determining the power load which provides an indication of a meter reading signal so one may evaluate the measured value

Note that the meter reading signal is capable of being used as an indicator of RPM and that the movement of the meter reading of increasing load (lower RPM) would

Art Unit: 1723

provide for a person having ordinary skill in the art a manner to determine the direction of change in the density of the concrete that it is hardening.

8. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Heimbruch et al 5992238.

The Heimbruch (et al '238) reference discloses a vibration unit 12, electric motor 18, switch to turn the motor on and off (not shown but assumed as inherent for all power drive motors), a measuring device (magnetic pickup sensor 40 and permanent magnet 42 or Hall type sensor) for determining the vibration speed of the vibrator which provides an indication of an electrical reading signal so one may evaluate the measured value by the display 66, and recorder 102. The determination of the speed of the vibration is an indicator of the motion.

Note that the meter reading signal may be used as an indicator of RPM or determination of acceleration of the vibrator and that the movement of the meter reading of increasing load (lower RPM or lower acceleration) would provide for a person having ordinary skill in the art a manner to determine a change in the density of the concrete that it is hardening, see also column 1, lines 35-46 and column 6, lines 8-24.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Previously cited patents were: Pottgens 3466014, Clark et al 3410528, Chaplin et al 5564824, Heimbruch et al 6109111, Steffen 6617832, and

Art Unit: 1723


6733169, Minnich et al 5983165, Yoshida et al 5202612, Eben et al 5492432, Mitsui et al 5618133, Barrett et al 3814532.

10. Newly cited references to Chapmean et al 4737774 is an example that a hall effect sensor signal may be also interpreted as an accelerometer. Te'eni 6227039 are examples of measurements of measuring vibration changes in concrete with a vibrator device, column 7, lines 25-35.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony G. Soohoo whose telephone number is (571) 272 1147. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Tues. - Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tony G Soohoo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723
